



The Ground Plane

South Bay
Amateur
Radio
Association
ARRL Member Club
Since 1974



Volume 3 Edition 5

May, 2002

Presidents Message SBARA 2002 President—Mike AB6CV

This month is the BIG Hamfest in Dayton. It has no equal in the US for sure, possibly in the world. I think every ham should go at least once in their lifetime. If, for no other reason than to just say you did. I need to go one of these years myself. May 3 was the date for it this year.

I did go to the Visalia DX Convention. I always wanted to go to that one as well. I only saw one person I knew. I will try to whip up an article for the newsletter on it. I have a few pictures.

Next month is Field Day. Wow, did that sneak up fast. We plan on having an even better one this year. Or at least a different one. I hope the weather cooperates. So start dusting off the rigs and antennas for the 2002 Field Day festivities.

73,
Mike AB6CV

What Makes Them Tick? Find out at the next meeting....

The May SBARA meeting program will be a tutorial on repeaters. Our guest speaker will be Jay Mills K1YJ, who is the trustee of the 440.1MHz repeater that many of us use. Jay is also a past president of SBARA and many may remember Jay as W5RBK. Since Jay is the trustee of his own repeater he is qualified to called an 'expert' on the subject. If you have ever wondered what makes a repeater work, be sure to not miss this presentation.

May Program

The May SBARA meeting program will be a tutorial on repeaters. Meet with us at 7:30 PM at the Community Center!

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Field Day 2002

This Field Day takes on a special meaning with the events of September 11th still fresh in our minds. If ever there was a doubt, we all now realize that the need for emergency communications is ever-present hiding in the shadows. With public service as a tradition of our hobby, the amateur community needs to be prepared to serve the greater community when emergencies occur.

Field Day is a yearly event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and is our chance to practice the skills needed to effectively set up reliable communication 'in the field' with short notice and only using emergency power sources. SBARA's Field Day in Central Park/Lake Elizabeth is sponsored by the Fremont Police Department because they recognize the importance of back-up communications in emergency situations.

Field Day is the one weekend a year your skills are required regardless of how long you've been an amateur or what level of expertise you possess.

To make this a realistic exercise, the rules require all equipment be set up starting in the morning. Using preexisting towers, antennas or power sources is not allowed. So this is where you come in.

Starting at 08:00AM you will have a chance to practice setting up multiple stations with a team of other amateur radio operators. All the stations need to be ready to 'go on the air' by 11:00AM when Field Day communications begins. For 24 hours the SBARA club members using our club call KU6S will try to work as many other stations as conditions allow.

This year we will operate as KU6S 4A East Bay. This means that we will be setting up four stations using emergency generator power. 80M, 40M, 20M and 15 Meter stations are currently planned. It is a great team exercise so come and participate even if you cannot stay all of Field Day.

For sure bring your family to our traditional potluck dinner Saturday afternoon at 5:00PM. SBARA will provide hot Dogs and Hamburgers and soft drinks. Every family is asked to bring a salad, sided dish or dessert to share with the others. Everyone is invited whether you plan to operate or not. We are looking for helpers to cook the hot dogs and hamburgers so if this is where you can help, let us know.

We are planning to have tours of the stations for visitors or your guests that are not amateur radio operators. All in all it should be a fun weekend with something for everyone to do. So please plan to be a part of this years Field Day event. Stay tuned to the SBARA web page at www.qsl.net/sbara/ for further Field Day 2002 announcements.

Also, if you have questions or want further information you may contact Al Rendon (WT6K) EVE: (510) 656-2427 DAYS (408) 321-4470 or E-Mail: wt6k@attbi.com

SBARA Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2002

SBARA Board Meeting Minutes 4/11/2002

Present were Tony Flushe / AB6BR, Sam Severs / WS6S, Al Rendon / WT6K, Jim Wood / KE6IVA, Lloyd Hartshorn / N6DOK and Mike Studer / AB6CV.

Harry Lau / KF6QAK was forced to turn over his newsletter responsibilities because of heavy job commitment.

Setting up a new database for the membership & newsletter was discussed.

SBARA Secretary Sam Severs / WS6S read the March Board meeting minutes.

Mike Studer / AB6CV revealed that SBARA participation in Primavera was terminated because of a lack of a volunteer to organize and coordinate the event.

A new Ham club in Milpitas (MARES) is seeking for it's membership to receive The Ground Plane and contribute a page to it monthly according to Mike Studer. MARES would pay for that portion of publishing / mailing costs that SBARA would expend. MARES has a membership goal of 20-30 members by year-end.

Field Day Report by Lloyd Hartshorn / N6DOK: Field day is the 4th Saturday in June or June 22-23. Our Lake Elizabeth permit has been secured including day / night permission and 24 hour restroom access.

There was a discussion about public relations opportunities during field day and how to improve contact and awareness with the general public.

Al Rendon / WT6K will ask Centerville Rents to donate or reduce the rental on the field day generator.

Several new Field day rules were discussed and a decision was made to review the rules.

President Mike Studer / related his continuing problems in getting himself named as trustee for the club call sign KU6S. It seems that the FCC and the local VEC are not being helpful.

May 4th at 12:00 noon was selected for a SBARA management pick-nick.

Al Rendon / WT6K indicated that the April meeting presentation would be "Getting on the microwave bands with transverters"

SBARA Treasurers Report / Jim Wood KE6IVA - 4/11/2002

Beginning Balance	\$ 761.07
Receipts this period	\$ 40.00
Membership Dues	\$ 40.00

Expenses this period

March Newsletter	\$ 45.47
March Stamps	\$ 34.20
Misc.	\$ 15.00

Balance 4/11/2002	\$ 706.40	Checkbook
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CD's 02/28/2002	\$2011.10	Statement
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DX Convention Report

Mike AB6CV

I attended the annual DX Convention in Visalia April 26-28. I had never been there before. I saw some very nice presentations. Several DXpeditions were reviewed by the actual people who were there. Dulcie Island was very interesting. It is near Pitcairn Island but is uninhabited. Except when those strange ham radio groups go there. There was a group that went to Sandwich Island as well. Much colder there. They wanted to see penguins. Well they got more than they expected. It was more of an infestation.

I saw the ARRL President, Jim Haynie W5JBP. He made a nice speech. It was nice to hear that an ARRL President is spending some serious time in Washington DC Lobbying for ham radio. He seems like a good guy for the job.

I picked up a few new goodies. A memory keyer from Idiom Press. And some PC software for helping with the search for rare DX stations. It is truly amazing. It is called CommCat. Check out their website and watch the Flash movie. It is really neat. www.commcats.com I just worked K1B, a DXpedition on Baker Island. They are really tearing up the bands. For anyone who wants more details ask me. But even if you are not a DXer the stories from the DXpeditions are really interesting to attend. Amazing things happen before, during, and after the DXpeditions. I heard about problems with crabs, goats, and penguins. Just to name a few.



IMAX FILM SPACE STATION CALLED "BREATHTAKING"

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, used the words "fantastic" and "breathtaking" to describe the world premiere of the IMAX film Space Station on April 16 and 17. The film, now showing (or scheduled to show) in selected theaters nationwide, includes a segment on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. ARISS set up a display booth at the movie's opening at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

"It was pretty awesome to see Bill Shepherd [KD5GSL] talk to the Texas students with our ARISS equipment in 3D," Bauer said afterward. "This is a must-see movie." Space Station is the first 3D IMAX space movie. Made possible by NASA, the film is presented by Lockheed Martin and narrated by Academy Award nominee Tom Cruise.

Seabrook Intermediate School in Texas provided the earthbound setting for ARISS' role in the IMAX production. Footage with Shepherd answering a question during a school contact was shot in January 2001 during Shepherd's tour of duty as Expedition 1 commander. The question segment and the answer segment then were matched up during editing for the final production.

Bauer said that seeing Space Station is the closest one can get to experiencing space without actually going there. "It was spectacular from the perspective that you really felt like you were there," he said.

The ARISS display at the National Air and Space Museum premiere attracted visits from member of Congress, Bauer said, as well as officials from NASA, IMAX and Lockheed Martin.

Among the special guests were Shepherd, the ISS Expedition 1 crew commander; Yuri Usachev, the Expedition 2 commander, Brian Duffy, N5WQW, an ardent SAREX/ARISS supporter on several shuttle flights; Toni Meyers, the IMAX film producer; and Jack Dailey, the museum's curator.

"We now have a permanent legacy in film," Bauer said. For more information, visit the IMAX Web site <<http://www.imax.com/spacestation/>>.--AMSAT News Service provided some information for this report

SECOND "SPACE TOURIST" EN ROUTE TO ISS; AMATEUR CONTACTS PLANNED

Space tourist and amateur researcher Mark Shuttleworth this week journeyed to the International Space Station. The South Africa native, who now lives in London, and his two crewmates--Russian cosmonaut and ISS veteran Yuri Gidzenko and European Space Agency astronaut Roberto Vittori, IZ6ERU, blasted off April 25 from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome aboard a Soyuz vehicle. They were scheduled to arrive at the ISS April 27. During their eight-day stay, Shuttleworth and Vittori are scheduled to speak via Amateur Radio with youngsters at schools in South Africa and Italy.

"This live communication represents a major turning point for the image of South African education," Shuttleworth said in a statement released by a South African marketing firm he's hired, "and puts a group of our school learners uniquely into the global spotlight of space exploration." Shuttleworth, 28, has been issued a "temporary, honorary Amateur Radio station license" by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa. The license, good for three months, bears the call sign ZS RSA--not an amateur configuration.

If successful, the contacts will mark the first ARISS QSOs with schools in Africa. The initial contact is set for Monday, April 29, with Shuttleworth's alma mater, Bishops in Cape Town. Students in three South African provinces submitted questions, the best of which will be posed by winners of a nationwide competition. Additional contacts are on the ARISS roster with three other South African schools. Vittori is scheduled to attempt a direct 2-meter ARISS contact with a school in Italy on May 4.

Shuttleworth's adventure, which NASA calls "a private commercial agreement with the Russian Aviation and Space Agency," is costing him an estimated \$20 million. After the visit of the first space tourist, businessman Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, almost a year ago, NASA, Russia and the other international partners established some guidelines for future visits of this type. As did Tito, Shuttleworth says space travel has been a lifelong dream.

According to media accounts, Shuttleworth has rankled at being described as a "space tourist." He points out that he's trained eight months for the mission. In addition, Shuttleworth says, he and Gidzenko have been trained by Russian and South African biologists in how to carry out genetic engineering studies using animal stem cells while aboard the ISS.

The crew's primary mission is to deliver a fresh Soyuz spacecraft to the ISS, where a Soyuz craft remains available as a lifeboat. The trio will return to Earth in early May aboard the Soyuz spacecraft now attached to the station. Gidzenko, a veteran of the ISS's first resident crew, will become the first former resident to revisit the complex.

Amateur Radio Calendar of Events

May 11 Foothill Flea Market
May 11 Reno Spring Ham Swap
May 9 SBARA Board Meeting
May 15 SBARA Meeting -
May 17-19 Dayton Hamvention
May 18 Transmitter Hunt - Fox's Choice
June 22-23 Field Day 2002
October 18 Pacificon

Free Amateur Radio Technician License Training Class

LARK, (Livermore Amateur Radio Klub) is going to be conducting a FREE training class on the July 13th-14th weekend that will teach you what you need to know to take and pass the "Technician" level licensing test...and you don't need to learn Morse Code for this 1st level license. All instruction and training materials are provided FREE by LARK, but there is a small fee to take the licensing test. The licensing test will be administered on Sunday afternoon around 3:00 PM following completion of the weekend instruction and final student pre-test review. Additional testing, including CW (morse code), will also be available Sunday afternoon for anyone wishing to upgrade to a higher license level.

The class and testing session will be held at the Livermore City Council Chambers location on Pacific Avenue in Livermore. Class will be instructed by Rich Harrington (KN6FW) and class size will be limited to no more than 30 students on a first registered basis. To register for the class, or get answers to any questions you may have, you need to contact Gary Giberson (KG6DML) by e-mail at gngiberson@attbi.com or by phone after 6:00 in the evening at (925) 462-8601.

This opportunity is open to anyone and everyone interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator. So don't delay and pass the word today!

SBARA Leadership Team 2002 Officers

President

Mike Studer — AB6CV
ab6cv@earthlink.net

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Sam Severs—WS6S
ws6s@severs.com

Treasurer

Jim Wood — KE6IVA
jimjoann@pacbell.net

Activity Manager

Lloyd Hartshorn— N6DOK
LloydN6DOK@AOL.com

Webmaster

Tony Flusche — AB6BR
tonysf@attbi.com

Photographer

Sam Severs — WS6S
ws6s@severs.com

Al Rendon (interim) — WT6K
w6tk@arll.net

Newsletter Editor

Bill Artelt— WB9YVM
wizard@attbi.com

Visit SBARASAT on the Internet at <http://www.sbarasat.org>

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<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

<http://www.sbarasat.org>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association—SBARA

P.O. Box 8377

Fremont, Ca. 94537-8377